

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 6, 2005, the Examiner noted that claims 15, 28, 39 and 45-50 were pending, allowed claims 48-50, and rejected claims 15, 28, 39 and 45-47. Claims 15, 28 and 39 have been amended, claims 45-47 have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 15, 28, 39 and 48-50 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Page 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 15, 28 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Bessho and Cullen.

Bessho is directed to a character recognition method using a ruled line deleting method. Bessho, as indicated in S118 of figure 10 and col. 11, lines 32-35, deletes a ruled line based on black run length and the coordinates of line segments having a predetermined black run length. Bessho as acknowledged by the Examiner does not teach details about deleting based on ratio of height and width. The Examiner uses Cullen to allegedly teach height and width ratios. However, neither Bessho or Cullen teach or suggest deleting based on a height width ratio and information about a distance between straight line patterns one of which is used in the ratio (see claims 15, 28 and 39). It is submitted that the invention of independent claims 15, 28 and 39 distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that claims 48-50 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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